

U.S.S. THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

1970
IN REPLY REFER
DD717/GLM:pn
5750
Ser 247
23 APR 1971

OPNAV Report 5750-1

From: Commanding Officer, USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717) Command History - 1970;
submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717) Command History - 1970
(2) Copy of USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717) Cruise Book
"WESTPAC 69-70" 93

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded in accordance with reference
(a).


ROBERT F. CONNALLY

Copy to: (w/encl)
CINCPACFLT
COMCRUDES PAC
COMCRUDES FLOT THREE
COMDESRON NINE
COMDESDIV NINETY-TWO

USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717)

CHRONOLOGY

SHIP'S HISTORY - 1970

During the year 1970, the USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717) upheld her reputation as a ship that met all her commitments. While Long Beach, California, remained CHANDLER's homeport, in actuality, approximately eight months of 1970 were spent in the performance of various assigned operational duties elsewhere. Her assignments were as varied as the many components that go into the make-up of a functional operating destroyer. During 1970, CHANDLER participated in four major operational commitments:

1. WESTPAC Deployment (1 January 1970 - 1 April 1970). During the last three months of the deployment, CHANDLER provided valuable Naval Gunfire Support to Allied Forces in the Republic of Vietnam, acted as a plane guard for the USS HANCOCK (CVA 19) during flight operations in the Sea of Japan and visited several liberty ports including Bangkok, Thailand, Kaohsiung, Republic of China, Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan and Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines.

2. PACMIDTRAPON 70 (16 June 1970 - 5 August 1970). Thirty-two Midshipmen, including 6 first class and 26 third class, embarked in CHANDLER June 18th for a six-week training period with port visits in San Francisco, Seattle, and Honolulu. The intensive indoctrination into Navy life ended on 4 August 1970.

3. ROPEVAL 4-70 (22 September 1970 - 1 October 1970). During the fleet exercise, ROPEVAL, CHANDLER displayed her readiness for another upcoming WESTPAC deployment, by successfully participating in ASW exercises, plane guard assignments and many gunnery exercises.

4. WESTPAC Deployment (13 November 1970 - 31 December 1970). CHANDLER deployed for WESTPAC on 13 November and arrived in Subic Bay 5 December 1970. She participated in one assignment in conjunction with the United States Air Force, then spent the Christmas Holidays in Kaohsiung, Republic of China.

USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD717)

NARRATIVE

SHIP'S HISTORY - 1970

A. During the year 1970 the CHANDLER had two Commanding Officers. CDR Thomas L. MEEKS, USN was in command from 1 January 1970 to 6 November 1970 and was relieved 6 November 1970 by CDR Robert F. CONNALLY, USN. The Change of Command Ceremony was held onboard CHANDLER 6 November 1970. Upon completion of the ceremony, CDR MEEKS departed for Washington for duty in the Pentagon while CDR CONNALLY began the final week of preparations for the upcoming WESTPAC deployment.

B. The CHANDLER was a member of Destroyer Squadron NINE, Division NINE TWO during 1970 and was homeported in Long Beach. Other ships in the Squadron included the USS TRUXTON (DLGN-35), USS SOMERS (DDG 34), USS HOLLISTER (DD788), USS OZBOURN (DD846), USS DEHAVEN (DD727) and two other destroyers that have since been decommissioned, USS COLLETT (DD730) and the USS MANSFIELD (DD728).

The CHANDLER began and ended the year 1970, as a member of the SEVENTH Fleet. On 1 January she was anchored in DaNang Harbor and on 31 December she was performing SAR duties in the Northern Sector of the Gulf of Tonkin. In between, CHANDLER logged over 40,000 miles, visited numerous ports, and functioned efficiently as a member of both the FIRST and SEVENTH Fleets.

The first seven days of January were spent providing vital Naval Gunfire Support in the I Military Region while operating out of DaNang Harbor. During this period, CHANDLER was on constant alert and fired numerous rounds daily. Night found her anchored in DaNang Harbor and firing harassment and interdiction rounds into the outlying areas surrounding DaNang.

On 7 January CHANDLER was relieved of her Naval Gunfire Support duties and began a three day transit to Bangkok, Thailand. Five liberty days were enjoyed by the crew in Thailand, but not all the time was spent sight-seeing and resting. CHANDLER provided a community relations team to assist in a yard project at a school nearing completion in Bangkok. The team completely creasoted, painted, and fully equipped a new classroom addition to the Regina Mundi School. The crew, along with Thai children, worked side by side; it was an experience in understanding and cooperation that will not be forgotten by the participants.

On the 15th of January CHANDLER was underway for a 4 day port visit in Kachsiung, Republic of China and then proceeded to Sasebo, Japan for an upkeep period. CHANDLER operated in and out of Sasebo during February escorting the USS HANCOCK (CVA 19) during flight operations; on 17 March she departed for Long Beach.

1 April saw CHANDLER arrive back in Long Beach for the first time in 6 months. The remainder of April was spent in the Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

On 18 June 1970, 6 first class and 26 third class Midshipmen were embarked to participate in PACMIDTRARON 70. Along with intensive drills and exercises the Midshipmen were introduced to several liberty ports including San Francisco, Seattle, and Honolulu. On 5 August the "Middie" cruise came to an end and our 32 Midshipmen departed CHANDLER with a far greater insight into the Navy way of life.

August and most of September were spent in port with the exception of several short periods of underway time for local operations.

On 22 September CHANDLER got underway to participate in the Fleet Exercise, ROPEVAL 4-70. This exercise provided her with an opportunity to display her readiness for the upcoming WESTPAC deployment. CHANDLER participated in exercises ranging from anti-submarine warfare to plane guarding and did well in all phases proving that she was once again ready for deployment.

The month of October and the first half of November were spent in port making preparations for the upcoming WESTPAC deployment scheduled for 13 November.

On 13 November, CHANDLER deployed to WESTPAC with other units of Destroyer Division NINE TWO and DESRON NINE. CHANDLER's first WESTPAC assignment found her participating in a special operations in support of the Commander, SEVENTH Fleet. The Christmas Holidays were spent in Kaohsiung, Republic of China and on the 27th of December CHANDLER was underway for her second WESTPAC assignment as an escort for the USS GRIDLEY on North Search and Rescue station. New Year's Eve was celebrated in the Gulf of Tonkin, 50 miles from the North Vietnamese city of Haiphong.

CHANDLER had a very eventful 1970. She was constantly on the go and, as a result, spent only 4 months in her homeport. She never missed a commitment indicating the dedication and resourcefulness of her officers and men in keeping their proud 25 year old ship underway and ready for sea at all times.

1 Jan - 7 Jan	Naval Gunfire Support, Republic of Vietnam
7 Jan - 10 Jan	Enroute Bangkok, Thailand
10 Jan - 15 Jan	Inport Bangkok, Thailand
15 Jan - 20 Jan	Enroute Kaoishung, Republic of China
20 Jan - 23 Jan	Inport Kaoishung, Republic of China
24 Jan - 30 Jan	Enroute Sasebo, Japan
31 Jan - 11 Feb	Inport Sasebo, Japan
12 Feb - 14 Feb	Escort USS HANCOCK (CVA-19)
15 Feb - 2 Mar	Inport Sasebo, Japan
2 Mar - 5 Mar	Enroute Yokuska, Japan
6 Mar - 16 Mar	Inport Yokuska, Japan
17 Mar - 1 Apr	Enroute Long Beach, California
22 Mar -	Fuel Stop Midway Island
25 Mar -	Fuel Stop Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
1 Apr -	Arrive Long Beach, California
2 Apr - 27 May	Inport Long Beach, California
27 May - 29 May	Local Ops So Cal Ops Area
30 May - 18 Jun	Inport Long Beach, California
18 Jun - 5 Aug	PACMIDTRACON 70
1 Jul - 6 Jul	Inport San Francisco
6 Jul - 8 Jul	Enroute Seattle
8 Jul - 12 Jul	Inport Seattle
13 Jul - 23 Jul	Enroute Pearl Harbor
30 Jul - 5 Aug	Enroute Long Beach
5 Aug - 11 Aug	Inport Long Beach
11 Aug - 17 Aug	Escort USS KITTY HAWK
15 Aug - 22 Sep	Inport Long Beach
22 Sep - 10 Oct	ROPEVAL 70
2 Oct - 6 Oct	Inport Long Beach
6 Oct - 8 Oct	Local Ops So Cal Ops Area
9 Oct - 13 Nov	Inport Long Beach
13 Nov - 5 Dec	Enroute Subic Bay, Republic of the Phillipines
19 Nov - 21 Nov	Inport Pearl Harbor
23 Nov -	Fuel Stop Midway Island
30 Nov -	Fuel Stop Guam
5 Dec - 12 Dec	Inport Subic Bay, Republic of the Phillipines
13 Dec - 19 Dec	Special Operations, South China Seas
20 Dec - 21 Dec	Inport Subic Bay
22 Dec - 23 Dec	Enroute Kaoishung, Taiwan
23 Dec - 27 Dec	Inport Kaoishung
28 Dec - 31 Dec	Enroute North SAR Gulf of Tonkin

The following awards and messages were received by the CHANDLER during 1970:

CHANDLER was presented with the blue Supply "E" for excellence in the Supply Department. The following note was received from COMDESDIV 92:

" I wish to congratulate all hands in the CHANDLER Supply Department for winning the Supply "E". There are fewer Supply E's awarded than any other departmental award. It is surely the toughest one to get. The Supply Department always takes a lot of ribbing and hard knocks, but I can honestly say that CHANDLER's Supply Department gang has always set forth 100% support for all hands on board. They richly deserve this reward and I am happy to join all hands on CHANDLER in congratulating them and hope that they respect their success during the current training cycle."

Upon departure from Westpac:

"Upon completion of assignments in Westpac I wish to extend my appreciation to COMDESDIV 92, his staff, and the Officers and men of USS OZBURN, HOLLISTER, MANSFIELD, AND THEODORE E. CHANDLER for their very fine performance while deployed with the Seventh Fleet. You leave in your wake a record of excellent service ranging from providing a heavy volume of timely and accurate shooting on NCFS to steadfast support of CVA strike force. Your record of conduct ashore and your noteworthy community relations projects in Bangkok have done much to enhance the image of the Seventh Fleet.

Please extend a "Well Done" to all hands and my best wishes for a pleasant journey home and a happy reunion with friends and loved ones."

Vice Admiral M. F. WEISNER, USN

"As you depart the Seventh Fleet, you may take pride and satisfaction in your accomplishments. You have completed an eminent deployment, made significant contributions to TG 70.8 and the Seventh Fleet, and can be assured that you will be missed. This performance has come with hard work and effective leadership at all levels of command. I wish you a joyous reunion with your loved ones."

Rear Admiral BAGLEY

"Service with the Seventh Fleet is both challenging and rewarding. During your deployment you participated in every aspect of Westpac operations from training to gunfire support. Your performance was characterized by a willing spirit and a tremendous exhalation of professional competence. Welcome home for a well earned rest."

Rear Admiral PLATE

Upon completion of the Midshipman Cruise:

"As the cruise steams to it's finish, I want to congratulate all hands for an outstanding job. Each of you came through in fine style. Each of us not only has a responsibility to do his best to keep the Navy fit and ready, but also to see that tomorrow's Navy is better than the one we are in today. The excellent job you have done in training our embarked midshipmen will go a long way towards keeping tomorrow's Navy on top."

Captain J. D. BUTLER

COMDESDIV 92

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY - CDR. ROBERT F. CONNALLY, III, USN

Commander Robert F. CONNALLY was born in (b) (6) on (b) (6) and now makes his home in (b) (6). He graduated from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia in 1952 and commenced his naval career through the Naval Officer Candidate program shortly thereafter. His early assignments were in the destroyer BRISTOL (DD857) as Communications Officer, in the minesweeper BOBOLINK (MSC(0)2) as Executive Officer, and in the Communications Security Section of the Naval Security Group Detachment located in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. From Hawaii, successive tours were spent as a student at the General Line School in Monterey, California, as Assistant Weapons Officer in the heavy cruiser BREMERTON (CA130) and as Executive Officer of WALDO COUNTY (IST1163). Subsequent assignments included tours in the Strategic Plans Division in Washington and as Executive Officer of the destroyer HULL (DD945).

Commander CONNALLY, in addition to graduating from the General Line School, USN Post Graduate School, Monterey, California, is a graduate of the School of Naval Warfare at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and holds a Masters Degree in International Relations from George Washington University. He served as the Senior Advisor, Vietnamese Third Coastal Zone and as Commander, Southern Surveillance Group (Task Group 115.3) with joint headquarters in Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam. Prior to reporting to his present assignment, he was Executive Officer of USS ANCHORAGE (LSD36).

Commander CONNALLY has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal (with Combat "V") a Gold Star in Lieu of the second Bronze Star, the Navy Achievement Medal (with Combat "V") Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Citation (with Two Stars), in addition to the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and the Vietnamese Medal of Honor, First Class, for his service in Vietnam. He also holds the Navy Occupation Medal, National Defense (with Star), Vietnam Service Medal (with six campaign stars), Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Commander CONNALLY is married to the former (b) (6) of (b) (6).